



SADBERGE PARISH PLAN



COMMENTS FROM THE INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 2.23 – Is there anything that would increase your use of the village hall?

More interesting group activities such as weight watchers.

Whist drives.

Whist drives.

More activities for the young; e.g. hiphop dance classes.

More functions for over sixties; e.g. tea dances, book club.

Nothing!

Wider range of evening courses.

Drama productions. Popular / classical music performances. Exhibitions; e.g. art, local crafts, specialist food markets. Readings / lectures / speakers.

More talks / slide-shows or theatre productions. I also like the "community breakfast" idea.

Indoor sports facilities / showers.

More child-orientated activities or events that are inclusive of all family members.

Disco's.

Additional events.

Provide equipment.

Start computer / IT classes again. More summer dances – mixed themes.

A feeling of being welcome. When I have tried to contribute to Community events, no-one spoke to me. I felt I was excluded from the village community as a newcomer.

I think I will probably use the village hall more when we have lived here longer.

We will probably use the village hall more when we are more established in the village.

A greater range of classes.

Broader range of evening classes and functions.

Informal social get-together (including bar and music).

More evening classes for adults.

Classes available for adults; e.g. Spanish, cookery.

More classes in the hall.

Continental style café. Garden shows.

Language classes.

Youth club. More activities for small children.

A full size snooker table.

Not really. I consider it well run by the existing Committee. I'm always ready to put forward future suggestions.

Bring back evening classes in art / drawing and dancing.

More classes.

I attend classes in the village hall at least twice a week. It is always clean and tidy and beautifully presented. I don't think it could be improved!

A 3-a-side football league.

Yoga class. Community cafe (?).

More youth / sports activities.

More well-advertised activities.

More information about its events.

More art classes.

More choice of classes for older people.

More evening classes and advance knowledge of dates and times, etc.

More events. Knowing what is happening there.

At the moment, I have an active life outside the village. This could change and my answers to the above would need to be re-considered.

Themed nights; e.g. jazz, dance classes. Improved light and sound system. Interest groups.

Village Hall fairs and cake stalls.

Cookery classes. Wine tasting. Investment club.

Vocational activities – day or evening classes.

More classes; e.g. keep fit, slimming club, classes as previously held by the Borough Council.

Computer classes.

More advertising.

More functions.

If there were more things for children to do on a Fright night like a youth club again.

Exercise classes, but I would probably need a leaflet posted to even find out about it.

Evening classes – salsa, yoga, art, meditation.

Nice area around the back of the Hall.

If there were more further education courses I would use the Hall more. We enjoy music and jazz evenings.

More further education classes.

Information about events.

More social functions during the day.

More classes.

Modern jive lessons. French and German lessons.

Modern jive class.

I would like to see more youth services and adult education classes during evenings and at weekends.

More evening / daytime classes. Language. Art. Dancing. Badminton. Tai chi.

Nothing that I can think of! Maybe live music?

More things for young people to do.

Fitness / aerobics class.

Classes for children / teenagers. Discos for children / teenagers.

Evening classes or day classes. Some language courses. The Spanish class was very good but gave a taste and did not carry on any further.

More classes / events aimed at younger residents; e.g. fitness classes (dance aerobics was withdrawn due to lack of interest) or barbecues.

More classes available for adults and children. Aerobics, pilates, dance, etc. for children, karate.

Aerobics classes.

Question 3.9 – Is there anything else that Sadberge Parish Council should be doing?

Traffic problems; e.g. speeding and heavy traffic. Pavement repairs.

Don't know what they do.

Sorting out the traffic volume and speed! Stopping access to HGV, etc. Make it a village!

Sorting out the traffic problems; e.g. high volume and speed. Latest actions / road marking have had no effect whatsoever. I have never known a 'village' to have so much traffic.

Traffic. Housing. Parking.

Provide more colour to road-sides, etc. with flower beds, pots, etc. Lobby Darlington Borough Council to tidy the lay-by leading into the village and preventing trailers from parking there. Promote walks, cycle-ways and bridle paths around Sadberge.

If we can't improve the public transport situation, what about initiating a car-sharing scheme of some kind?

More for the elderly.

More for the elderly.

Making sure that there is a black plastic bin-bag at the bottom of the link road to the A66 (below Abbey Road). On a windy period it is a disgrace!

Looking at lorry parking in lay-bys and car parking on Middleton Road near the bridge.

Speed bumps on Norton Back Lane. Additional facilities in the play area.

Improvement to park slide, climbing frame, swings, etc. Tennis. Care of the play area and a bouncy castle. Speed bumps on Norton Back Lane.

Representing villagers' views, not just their own.

Do something about the unsightly area on the corner opposite Norton Road on the road towards Stockton Road. Clean it up, cut or dig out weeds!

I am aware that Sadberge Parish Council has made considerable efforts regarding the area of land on the corner of Stockton Road at the side of Laurel Terrace. Surely there must be some legislation that could be used to force the owners to improve the area, the broken buildings and the fencing. Would it not be possible for the Borough Council to compulsorily purchase the site, landscape it to form part of the village open space? Or could there be an appeal within the village for a "white knight" to purchase it as a commemoration in their name?

Improve roads, footpaths and road signs. Encourage a spirit of community within the village boundary. Limit traffic movements from non-villagers. Ban HGV's from using village roads.

Stopping any building in the village.

Calming and reducing traffic volumes.

Everything in its power to prevent any further house-building in the village.

Speed ramps on all approach roads into the village.

I don't know what I don't know!

Try to stop so much traffic coming through.

Litter bins not emptied. The one in the children's play ground never got emptied after the Council's workmen filled it.

Pushing for traffic control through the village. Asking for more police presence, speed traps, etc.

Stop discussing personal manners in public places with friends and family. These matters should only be discussed within the Parish Council.

They should be treating all people in the village equally, not one rule for one person and one rule for another.

Regulating through traffic in the village – both amount and speed.

More for the children to do.

Stopping development land.

Consider people who do not drive or have transport to and from work, and resolve the bus problem as they lose work and wages because of this. On a weekend I have to pay £35.40 for taxis to and from work. This is half of my wage.

Publish their achievements.

Giving out better information to the people that "voted" them into power.

Must improve communication and make people aware of what is going on with particular relationship to Darlington Borough Council and Planning applications.

Updates on activities.

Updates on activity / role.

More community events.

It is such a shame that such a pretty village has so little interest in making the entrance to and exit from (and village green area) more attractive with the use of flower beds and floral attractions.

Letting people know what's going on in Sadberge!!

Making residents more aware of what they (the Council) are doing; i.e. what is discussed at meetings, what decisions are made at meetings. Advising residents by newsletter or a column in Roundabout with current issues. Why is Sadberge Parish Council never reported in the Darlington & Stockton Times newspaper?

Stop being a secret society and advise residents what is going on. Prime example – the "mobile home" at Beacon Hill stayed in a lay-by all day and was moved into position at 8:30 p.m. when Council offices were closed. This has to alarm people who do not know what is happening. Questions to a Parish Councillor were merely answered with "he has permission", but permission for what? It is unacceptable that residents have to contact Darlington Borough Council for information on projects taking place in our village.

When outside bars are used in the Village Hall these should be offered to the Buck Inn or Three Tuns (rather than other publicans coming in from Darlington or Cleveland).

Outside bars used in the Village Hall should be done by local pubs.

More effort to introduce activities for the younger generation.

More things for the kids to do on a weekend.

Provide recycling boxes and wheelie bins for properties outside the central village area.

Should be fighting our village corner but seem to have no say in what happens.

I do not have a lot to do with the Parish Council so I cannot speak, but I am sure they do their very best. Also, we need a regular bus service as before, so try to bring back this service.

More traffic calming measures.

A map in the centre of the village showing routes of walks around the village.

Bus service resumed. Stockton – Darlington.

Ask the Council to replace the paving slabs up to the front door. I have asked but was told the tenant before me laid them. They are nearly all broken.

Organising more days out / away-day trips to various venues; e.g. Whitby, Scarborough, Beamish, etc. for people / individuals who are on low income(s) / do not own their own car / transportation. Furthermore, these type of occasions happened before and then stopped. If people were prepared to contribute towards the hire / charter of a coach(es), this would be a good idea.

More buses regularly and bus services later at night.

Publicising its activity so I know what I am relying on it for.

The Parish Council should make Darlington Borough Council aware of the constant traffic and noise problems caused by extra heavy vehicles coming through the village from the A66 back to the A66.

Making Darlington Borough Council aware of bad footpaths and dilapidated roads.

Cutting of grass and verges. All are disgusting.

Treating as a village and planting flowers and baskets. This Village is like living on the Birmingham Bull Ring. It has no beauty to it. It's just an extended part of the A66.

The Parish Council should make people aware that they should not leave cars or park cars in front of hidden drives at any time. Also, make Darlington Borough Council aware that Sadberge is a village and not a convenient access for overloaded lorries carrying diggers to and from A – B. Also Wearmouth Wagons – one every 10 minutes through the village for access road. Now three all in a row.

Look at the possibility of a permanent "SPEED – FLASHING" mph sign. Must be cheaper than erecting and dismantling on a regular basis. They seem to work.

Supporting the development / maintenance of village life.

I feel that more should have been done to prevent the closure of the primary school, as a certain sense of community has been lost with this.

Continue to work towards reducing the traffic which passes through the village.

Question 5.11 – Are there any other statements that you would use to describe Sadberge?

The first two statements summed it up perfectly!

The land opposite the Three Tuns is an eyesore and the wall is in a dangerous condition. It is spoiling the look of the village and the owner needs to deal with this ASAP.

Ignored by Darlington Borough Council, except for high Council Tax. No amenities. Poor transport / access.

Poor bus service to Darlington cuts off communication to town.

Ruined by extensive traffic coming through the village.

I would not describe this as a village. It's a 'cut through' for a fast, high volume of traffic / vehicles / HGV's trampling through such a small place. The village should be for local traffic / access only and cut off at points; e.g. the bottom of Hill House Lane for traffic to gain access to the A66 via Great Burdon.

Not child friendly. Nothing for children of any age group except pre-school, which is struggling to continue. It reminds me of the town in the film of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' with the evil child snatcher whisking away the children, out of sight, out of mind. No school. The playground in an out-of-sight location. No activities for children. Always have to travel out of the village. Very sad really!

The traffic that uses the village as a short cut including heavy vehicles needs to be reduced.

Sadberge is an ideal size. It has a nice size of population.

Sadberge is a rural idyll.

Some of the village is quiet. Other parts are not. Where I live is quiet and I do not mind.

Good sense of community. Friendly pub and neighbours.

Very untidy. No flowers. Bad road surfaces.

Sadberge would be a quiet village if there was less traffic passing through and fewer vehicles parked on the roads.

Sadberge is rapidly becoming a village of elderly people and commuters to the larger towns. If more facilities were available it would encourage younger persons to consider moving to the village and would require more houses to be built.

In decline; i.e. no school, Post Office under threat. Cut off. A village with a bypass that goes through the centre.

There is no incentive for young families to live here due to the closure of the school.

Run-down in appearance. A place to pass through, not to stop in.

Sadberge used to be a quiet village, before the new slip road was built. Now it is used as a rat run for people travelling from the A1 junction at Bradbury to Darlington, Middleton St. George and Yarm.

Poor village for older people with no transport.

I was born here, married and moved away and have now been back living here for the last ten years. I do not want to leave the village. Love it!

"Fab"

Arthur and the village shop are the "heart" of the community. There is no school. The village has become a "rat run" for commuter traffic.

Speed humps would slow down the traffic.

Due to the high volume of lorries and traffic it is no longer a quiet village as it was when we moved here. It has become a nightmare to cross roads.

Too many lorries coming through the village.

Poor bus access for the elderly.

Good mix of friendly people.

Not enough young people.

Excellent place to live. Let's strive to keep it that way, even allowing for change.

A picturesque village, with good and easy access to Darlington, Stockton and Middlesbrough.

Yes. The entrance from Darlington off the A66 from Beacon Hill up to the village centre is always overgrown and scruffy and is a dumping ground for mobile litter louts coming off the motorway, with a lay-by used usually for public boating sessions.

Although I agree that it's safe to walk around Sadberge at any time, it would be safer on the introduction of a traffic calming system.

Attractive.

You would not think this village was by-passed.

Traffic reduction would make it a much nicer place to live? And a chicane on Hillhouse Lane to reduce speedsters as the existing rumble strip was a waste of money.

Kept as it is. Sadberge is a quiet place to live but if it was allowed to expand it would have the same problems that Dinsdale now has with rowdy youths and increased crime.

Significant church community.

Fast becoming a 'rat run' for speeding vehicles and looks 'unloved' and neglected.

A great place to live.

The closure of primary school and the reduction in public transport detract from a safe environment for children.

Darlington Borough Council have cut Sadberge off. Closing the school. Stopping the main bus route from Teesside. Building a slip road instead of putting in a roundabout.

Friendly.

A historic gem. Pity about the school. These are a part of the heart of any community.

Information on allotments. Are there any?

It is a lovely village except for the traffic.

Beautiful place. More scenic than most places.

Sadberge was an excellent place for older people to live and to bring up children until we lost the school, the bus service and the chiropodist. Unless you have access to a car it is not a good place to live for young families and the elderly.

I live outside Sadberge Village, so my opinions are just from using the village and the Village Hall.

We have lost our school and may be losing the Post Office so we have nothing to offer the builders of more houses. Plus a rubbish bus service to anywhere at times suitable for early morning students or workers.

Without a regular bus service it is very difficult for older people to travel and if the village shop were to close it would be disastrous for those without access to a car.

Welcoming, warm and safe place to live. Beautiful surroundings. Clean fresh air. We love living here. It is wonderful!

Sadberge has become a commuter rat run and this along with inconsiderate parking spoils the village. There is a problem for us joining Hill House Road because of the speed of traffic.

The "Sadberge Smell" which hangs over the village can be very unpleasant at times, especially in the warm weather.

Too much traffic crossing through the village making it noisy.

We do need more safe footpaths / cycle lanes as there is no path for a stroll that is safe for people, dogs, prams, wheelchairs and cycles. We also need traffic calming through the village.

It's just a great place to live – quiet yet handy for Darlington or Teesside, if you have transport!

Not much to do. Boring for kids.

A very pretty village that should not be spoilt by over-development.

I would not want to live anywhere else.

Inconvenient. Buses aren't regular or late enough. I would really only need buses to Darlington, but with more reasonable times; i.e. it would be reasonable for buses to run after 4 p.m.!

The Sadberge entrance from Norton Road to the left – i.e. the spare piece of land – is an eyesore. Disgusting. The A66 past the Village Hall is disgustingly dirty. More litter than a full week's refuse collection looks as if it has been dumped there.

There should be a proper village sign to acknowledge it as a village.

Cars parked on the road make it unsafe to see. A serious accident will be caused.

Darlington Borough Council needs to get their act together and acknowledge that Sadberge is lacking in services and maintenance of grass cutting, road and pavement resurfacing, decorative baskets, traffic noise and not using Sadberge as an alternative to the motorway.

Small. Boring.

A bit isolated for teenagers – difficult for them to get around independently due to the terrible bus service. Also, no links between Hurworth / Middleton and Sadberge by bus to enable them to see friends from school.

Sadberge is a very friendly, community-minded village. However, the peacefulness is destroyed by the traffic noise and it is very time-consuming and difficult to cross the roads at peak time.

Question 5.23 – Are there any other problems that are not on the list?

Can nothing be done about the overgrown mess at the end of Laurel Terrace which was once a lovely garden? This must give passers-by a bad impression of our village, as well as being dreadful for us as residents to have to look at every day. I don't know whether anyone else has mentioned this but I do know everyone would like something done.

Teenagers drinking in the village on a night. Teenagers urinating in school grounds during the day. Playing football on tarmac area of school and ball hitting nearby cars. Beer cans and smashed wine bottles in several areas in the village. High speed driving from residents living and using Norton Crescent.

Youngsters drinking, etc. in school grounds late at night. Football late at night. Why is it that for a village there are no speed bumps or controlled speed areas; c.f. village at Redmarshall, ????? etc. and Sedgefield.

Bus services. No access to Teesside. Nights and weekends.

We are never told if there is any mugging or burglary.

Increasing level of background noise from the A66. Has become noticeable as traffic volumes have increased over the last 15 years or so.

I can only reiterate the TRAFFIC PROBLEMS and pray that something substantial will be done before someone is seriously injured or killed.

Speed limit does not extend far enough to the north along Hillhouse Lane.

Lack of enforcement of weight restriction on Hillhouse Lane.

Sadberge is congested around the crossroad of Hillhouse Lane and Middleton Road with Stockton Road. Looks run-down as you approach the village on Norton Road, opposite the junction with Stockton Road – land on Stockton Road behind Laurel Terrace.

Weight limit on all roads into the village.

We suffered a spate of car theft for some years although this has not now happened for the past two years (touch wood!).

Traffic too fast into the village.

Slowing precautions for traffic around the village is ineffective. Something more effective should be introduced.

Speeding into Sadberge. Footpaths badly worn.

Buses don't go to Middleton St. George or Hurworth, which causes problems at weekends.

Eyesore of a sight opposite Norton Road and the Three Tuns.

The use of post top ?????? for street lighting is inefficient. These should be replaced by more efficient ??????????.

Lay-bys constantly used to park trailers. Traffic speeding into the village.

The dreadful field of weeds and rubbish on the road through to the A66. This is the only view from the front windows of at least 13 residents. It has been like this for many years and something should be done about it.

There are no official parking areas (except for the Village Hall).

Litter in the hedge leading into the village from the A66 at Beacon Hill junction to the Village Hall. While this is not in the village it is the approach to the village and does soil the impression of Sadberge.

On the approach to the village we need a notice saying "Do not throw litter out of your car. We are a litter free village."

Feral cats fouling gardens, being fed and encouraged by cat lovers.

The lay-by near the Village Hall requires some kind of deterrent preventing the dumping of portable buildings and vehicle trailers. It could also do with either making into a proper lay-by or digging up and landscaping. It is another eyesore on the approach to the village, left over from when the dual carriageway was put in.

Dog fouling is periodically very bad along Norton Road and Stockton Road.

Strong odours from some factory farming.

Road name signs not always helpful.

The signposted public footpaths sometimes lead nowhere? Would like to try alternative walks, other than the one behind the village hall.

House alarms.

Parking of cars near junctions causing poor vision when trying to pull out onto main road.

More respect for pedestrians by the Council. They have bollards, boxes and a bus stop in or near the centre of footpaths. There are also cars, wide hedges and trees encroaching into footpaths. Near me some person has a car one side of the path and a wide hedge on the other. I can just get past with my shopping with a struggle.

Inconsiderate parking at the Church is disgusting. All village people too idle to walk.

One day I had to walk down the middle of the road from the Church to the village green.

Too much noise from car horns.

The volume of traffic is only at peak times; 8 - 9 a.m. and 5 - 6 p.m. Otherwise okay.

Again lorries and traffic.

Speeding traffic.

Yes. I think a reduced speed restriction of 20 or 30 mph should be considered upon leaving the motorway at Beacon Hill, as I feel it is a high risk for residents turning left into Beacon Hill, with the blind view plus the single entry road and the constant use of the learner drivers. I think the added benefit would be the slowing down and calming of traffic before it reaches the built up village centre.

Parking around pubs near the main road is a moderate problem when the pubs are busy; e.g. Friday / Saturday nights.

One frequent problem is burglar alarms going off and left unattended.

Lack of wheelie bins. Bags of rubbish on road. Bags split.

Lack of wheelie bins / recycling bins.

The reservoir not being restored to its previous agricultural landscape following the end of its useful life. Open cast mining, by contrast, has enforced obligations of restoration.

Greater use should be made of the Village Hall car park for visitor parking.

The speed limit out of Darlington on the A66 should be 50 mph as it is in to Middlesbrough.

People walking dogs in the children's play area. (Moderate problem.)

As we live outside Sadberge, our house cannot have recycling collected and we have to make a weekly trip to the tip in Darlington. We feel that it is important to consider the environment and feel disadvantaged.

I live outside the village, hence the "no opinion" answer to some questions as I don't know about life in the village.

Since the construction of the slip road from the A66 the traffic towards Middleton St. George has more than doubled, including 8-wheel juggernauts from Salverson's. (All this on a "C" road.)

Frequent outdoor fires at all times of day. These create obnoxious smoke and smells which cling to washing and enter doors and windows. Are there by-laws which restrict outdoor fires before a certain time of day?

Traffic calming measures recently incorporated into Hill House Lane and Middleton Road are not very effective.

Parking of numerous white vans on either side of the road along the side of the Three Tuns restricts the view of oncoming traffic when leaving Hill House Lane and Middleton Road.

One 'significant' problem not on this list is the highly unpleasant smell which pervades the village from time to time. Source unknown?

Are bonfires, or the burning of farmyard waste, in breach of the Clean Air Act?

Lack of opportunity to actually go for walks outside the village as there are no foot paths or safe ways to actually walk around the lovely country lanes. Heavy traffic and speed are a major problem. Cycle lanes would be great and a recycling bank would also be welcomed.

Due to inconsiderate parking by people from the Dogs Trust (parking over the pavement on Hill House Road) I had to push an elderly lady in a wheelchair up the hill in the middle of the road in on-coming traffic. Not a very nice experience.

There now seems to be a lot of heavy vehicles using Norton Back Lane and joining the A66 at Sadberge. Also, commuters are using Norton Back Lane to avoid the T junction from Yarm on to the Back Lane near Fairfield.

Poor street lights at the side of the church on the garages. Some road surfaces and pavements are poor. Overgrown hedges that back on to footpaths; e.g. Abbey Road on to Stockton Road. You have to walk on the road because the footpath is narrow.

Very large trees not getting enough care; i.e. cut to a more reasonable height.

The main problem for myself is the volume of traffic at busy times; i.e. 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and again on a night from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Also the speed of traffic, and a car that is always parked near the Buck Inn on the brow of the hill near the bus stop heading towards Darlington. This is very dangerous as traffic has to stop then pull out into the on-coming lane to pass this car.

The roads leading into and out of Sadberge usually have litter on them. The lay-by at the end of our farm road usually has litter and is used to dump large items.

Vans parked on the footpath opposite the Three Tuns.

Spitting on pavements. Garden fires (seems like every day during the summer).

Garden fires during the summer.

Irregularity and ridiculous times of buses.

Parking in front of hidden driveways.

Volume of traffic. Noise. Route used as motorway.

Poor lighting between the village hall and Beacon Hill – makes it very difficult to go out at night for a run towards Darlington or for dog walkers. (No lights at all for about 60 metres.)

Question 7 – Any additional comments?

Why close the school and then propose to build new houses and flats in the village, making the village larger?

Rumble strips on roads approaching the village were a total waste of time and expense. The faster you drive over them, the smoother they feel.

Sadberge needs more input from ALL residents of the village. The work to support the village is led by a few very generous stalwarts. The cost of the village hall subscription should be increased substantially.

Please consider the idea of making the village green into a "roundabout". This would make it much easier for buses to turn, reduce traffic speed and be a safety feature at the crossroads.

The Parish Council is to be commended for the effort that has gone in to the whole consultation process to date. The Open Meeting on 17th May was well planned and highlighted the problems facing the village going forward without presenting a solution that may be regarded as a "fait accompli". Regrettably, the factors that make Sadberge a pleasant environment to live in for mature families and the elderly are precisely the factors that will leave the next generation disenfranchised. Loss of the school may detract from new families moving in, which means there is less reason for a pre-school and/or youth club requirement. There is nothing to attract / retain the attention of teenagers and even if after school, higher education and university they want to stay in the village, they could not afford to get on the housing ladder. New housing may attract new blood, but there was a sense of nimbysm at the Open Meeting.

More houses would increase the traffic and would be too late to save the school and bus service.

If anyone buys a house with a family there's a problem without a school. Sadberge is becoming an old person's village.

Sadberge needs new people to join, new blood, more young families. It was sad that the school closed. We moved here with the intention of our children going to a small village school, only to find that it closed a few months later. I feel that there is nothing in Sadberge for the youth. The pre-school are continually fighting to raise funds to pay their running costs to stay open. There is nothing for school / teens. They have to travel to Middleton St. George or elsewhere. The playground is in the most remote / vulnerable possible location (out of the way!). These are the people we need to be investing in, otherwise Sadberge will just be a remote, cut off 'rat race' village for the old and lonely.

I feel that a SMALL NUMBER of new homes would maybe regenerate the village and bring in a little new life / ideas / etc. I was most upset when the school closed shortly after we moved here. The feedback we were informed was that no-one fought strongly enough to keep it open. I cannot comment on this but a small village school was one of the main points in bringing us to Sadberge. Maybe more homes / people would increase services / activities; i.e. buses / shop / doctor / children's activities.

Any housing should be high quality 4/5 bedrooms and should blend in with the character of the village.

I feel strongly that the housing should be very minimal, if at all. The beauty of living in a village is a small community and the character of existing buildings. If the village loses this then house prices fall as it becomes a less desirable place. The type of property built will attract particular groups of people.

It would be tragic to see Sadberge blur into Middleton St. George – or become similar.

The reason for Sadberge being a friendly, safe village with good community spirit is due to the fact that it is the right size. Everybody knows each other. If there were any trouble everybody would know who the troublemakers were. This, I feel, makes people think before they act. If you go to Middleton St. George you can see how expansion has ruined the village and they have major problems with crime.

The housing being considered should be affordable to all. It should be a mixture of private, council and housing association.

The noise referred to is from the Three Tuns pub.

Regarding 6.5, if no houses then I would like to see the reservoir landscaped soon.

Buses.

If new houses were built which would increase traffic flow at peak times (cars) possibly part time traffic lights could be used !!! at the crossroads.

Having been bred and born in the village (Mam and Dad also) I find it a great village to live in. We used to all have allotments to grow our veg for our families! I am very proud to live in such a pleasant village with friendly people!

Speed of traffic coming through village and random / cluttered / dangerous parking.

- (a) If houses are to be built they should be affordable to village people.
- (b) Collection of garden rubbish would alleviate garden fires.
- (c) It is surprising the number of village people who do not support village activities.

In my opinion the village should be left as it is now.

I appreciate that Sadberge Parish Council are obviously very committed to looking after the community and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time and effort as I am sure it must take a lot of time and hard work.

There are two areas of concern regarding the visual impact on Sadberge.

- (1) Area on Stockton Road next to Laurel Terrace. It is possible (I know you have tried) for Darlington Borough Council to compulsory purchase the land and landscape the area and turn it over to the village as an addition to the village green? (Is there a white knight in the wings?!!)
- (2) On the approach to the village from the east just off the A66 on the right there is a derelict area which is a "lay-by" on which regularly are parked HGV trailers, containers, etc. This either needs refurbishing – i.e. kerbs, road made up – or turned into a green area. There is no need for a lay-by in this area as there are a number on the A66. One lay-by is only 200 yards east from this area.

Matters such as Post Office (closure), Doctor's surgery and bus services are not a great issue at present but could possibly be in the future and are of significant importance to the many elderly and younger families in the village.

Double parking outside the Three Tuns / old bus stop is a frequent traffic hazard. Parking on pavements is a particular menage to wheelchair / pushchair users and to pedestrians with mobility problems.

We need more say in how this village runs, not the Town or County Halls.

Make the village approach roads more appealing.

Prevent the ever-increasing traffic flow through Sadberge.

Consider the elderly who live here and are not as mobile or nimble as they would like to be!

Houses should blend in with the existing character of the village homes. Some properties built fairly recently do not. I don't know how planning permission was given, for example, for the overlarge property on the Sedgefield bank road.

Growth of the village might safeguard the shop / Post Office and the Village Hall / Church.

The closure of the school will deter families from coming to Sadberge

The reduction of the bus service must have seriously affected those unable to drive. Would village growth increase the service?

Let's get together and do something about the traffic.

A circular walk around the village, preferably paved. Perhaps to the A66 exit and back to the other entrance from the A66 into the village.

A paved pathway running parallel to the A66 near the entrance / exits to the village would make a useful all-weather circular walk around the village.

Houses for the youngsters. We do not keep them in Sadberge as there is very little, if any, that they can afford. Very soon this will only be a "retirement village".

Should properties be built, then affordable housing should be built. Most of the children brought up in the village leave due to the high cost of houses. They do not require four bedrooms, etc. Just a starter home!

We need a good bus service in the early morning, in the evening and on Sundays. It is disgusting that disabled and elderly people are locked in the village after the Council withdrew the morning, evening and Sunday bus service.

Sadberge needs to grow a little, I think, but we definitely do not want to become another Middleton St. George. We want to remain a village. I understand and agree that people want to build new homes in or near Sadberge, and some new development should be encouraged and allowed "to an extent". Everywhere needs new blood and new ideas or it stagnates and declines. We need to keep Sadberge on the map, not become a backwater, forgotten and ignored.

I cannot see the point in building houses. By looking at this form, it seems like you are trying to close everything down in Sadberge. Does what we think matter, or will it all be going ahead anyway?

Please try to keep Sadberge as a "village" and not another Middleton St. George!

New housing should be a mixture from starter upwards with some Housing Association rental. All new housing should be to the latest environmental standard.

If too many properties are built it will spoil the sense of community.

More traffic calming should be introduced. It's like a rat run at peak times. This would stop people using Sadberge as a short cut. The so-called ramps are a waste of time. They don't slow anyone down. Chicanes would be better.

I work every weekend on Saturday until ten o'clock. Because there is no bus service I pay half my wage in taxi fares. This is a major problem.

Provision of affordable homes to attract young families.

Learn from the mistakes of adjoining Middleton St. George "village". Too much development has been allowed. Do not allow the excuse of so-called "brown field site". Nobody ever considers density. Can the village cope with extra housing? And what type? Do not listen to local authority excuses. Smoke screening government policy. As a community Sadberge should go forward with the community's interest at heart.

I have lived here 11 years and have never seen any Police patrol !!

The old reservoir should be landscaped and made into a wildlife sanctuary.

Sadberge is a nice village with a nice close community of friendly established people. Why spoil it, "Darlington Council"? More housing, more traffic, more noise. I really can't think of one positive reason why I would want Sadberge turning into a small town. Please try to be thoughtful and responsible.

Not really a young family village.

- (1) Park inadequate compared with Middleton St. George. No slide. The climbing frame has no soft tarmac or protective flooring.
- (2) No primary school, so need a car to travel to Middleton St. George as I personally feel that 4 and 5 year old children are too young to go to school on the bus by themselves.
- (3) Pre-School exists, but for how long?
 - (1) Better park for kids. Fill in the old reservoir area into better facilities for younger and teenage community area.
 - (2) Keep Pre-School in the village to encourage families to move to the village.

Whilst I appreciate the need for some additional housing, I feel strongly that over-building will only put additional strain on what has recently become a very busy village.

Houses to be built should be smaller affordable homes for young people otherwise we will become a very old village.

Was unaware of the Open Meeting held on 17th May. More publicity required of events.

I believe we have to be much more of a force as a community to make the Borough Council, the Highways people and the Police sit up and take notice before the major issue of traffic / heavy goods vehicles is to be resolved!

I would want to see that services such as sewage were capable of coping with extra dwellings before supporting new build. I would like to see any new build focus on 'low' cost for new families / first time buyers.

I do not use the bus service, but my parents who live in Middlesbrough are now unable to travel to the village because of the lack of a bus service.

With reference to question 4.4, we don't want a footpath to Middleton St. George and Darlington. It would bring problem youths into the village.

What are the views of the Parish Council about buying a piece of land, fencing it off and placing a static two-bedroom mobile home on it? Is planning permission needed? Or will there soon be ten mobile homes on the land next month?

Have the Council got views on the static caravan sited at the bottom of the hill looking north-west from the village?

The recent loss of the bus service to Middlesbrough has been devastating! It was one of the reasons I came to live here!

Houses should be built behind the Buck Inn next to the Vicarage – on allotments.

We need the Arriva service 98 back or an equivalent service. It is ridiculous that the bus still runs to Middlesbrough from Darlington yet not long ago wanted to service Sadberge so it bypasses it !!!? Darlington Borough Council and Sadberge Parish Council could have done more I feel. This would not have happened in Hurworth. Our service 17 is neither use nor ornament. Why no late night, Saturday or Sunday service. Arriva have treated us very poorly and as a joke. If Mr. Blair and the Labour Council want to have us using public transport, what chance do we have here? Not everyone works 9 to 5 Monday to Friday.

Why build new houses if we haven't a school, are losing our Post Office and shop, and have no bus route to Teesside?

Sadberge used to be the place to live happily. Not any more. Darlington Borough Council have ruined it. Got it all wrong.

Does not cater for family life and community spirit.

Leave Sadberge as it is.

Leave Sadberge as it is.

Houses should be in an appropriate 'style' – in fitting with the long heritage of this lovely village. Town Farm Field and the reservoir.

Turn the primary school into a museum of the history of Tees Valley and Sadberge as a Roman and Viking settlement.

I don't feel that it's safe to go places by bike from Darlington.

Even if a 20 mph speed limit was set, I don't think that anyone would take notice.

I feel that starter homes should be allowed to be built to enable young people who have grown up in Sadberge to purchase their first home. Prices are way out of reach for the first time buyer. They are our future in the village!! As the village is now, they have no alternative but to move away as prices are way out of their reach.

Any further housing will only add to the traffic volume, but the eyesore of the old reservoir and the unkempt look of the village as you come in makes me think that a few houses built there can only improve it.

In my particular case I would request the curb stones near the old police house in Norton Crescent and the curb stone near to the Buck Inn drive be modified for safer use by those using invalid chairs.

If my wife could no longer drive into Sadberge my lifestyle would be severely restricted. Even if there are buses to Sadberge from Darlington we cannot access them without a car.

We live on the perimeter of this village. From an "outsider's" point of view I sympathise with people living in the village who have to put up with the ever-increasing amount of traffic going through. More could and should be done to deter motorists from using the village as a short cut; e.g. cameras, sleeping policemen, 20 mph speed limit, etc.

Sadberge is a lovely village. The traffic using it as a "rat run" should be eliminated, especially heavy lorries by access only for deliveries, etc.! I don't think it needs enlarging greatly. That would spoil it.

Sadberge will only remain a good place for older people to live provided that public transport continues.

I think it is important to look forward to the future and build new family homes which in turn should hopefully secure support and custom to our essential services such as the Post Office and shop, pubs, village hall, etc.

More involvement for children's services from Darlington Borough Council would improve services such as ??? / book loan schemes, more adult education courses, etc. Overall the health services are great.

A 20 mph zone would be a good idea if you could guarantee that motorists would keep to it. They don't keep to 30 mph so how would you make them keep to 20 mph?

Get rid of the gypsy and his caravan.

Houses such as Dorma on Stockton Road and the three-storey house on Hillside Lane are not in keeping with the look of the village and are eyesores. The only development that is any good is Goodwood Close. At least this kind of development fits in with the look of the village. The others shouldn't have been allowed by Planning.

The overall look of the village is very good, but there are times when litter is a problem from card passing and leaving litter as they throw it from their car. The road leading on to the A66 (i.e. Stockton Road) does get litter thrown and dog fouling is a nuisance.

There should be a 24 hour shop in the village, open on Sunday and all day Wednesday. The bus service should be better. It should run on Sunday and at night times like usual / the way it used to run.

Out with my friends until 10 p.m., but the buses finish at 6 p.m.

I feel very strongly that there should be no new housing developments in Sadberge. Too many villages are totally spoilt by over-development. Sadberge should stay as it is, a pretty unspoilt village with a good and safe community spirit. The old school should be a nature reserve and the old reservoir should be a decent park for children of all ages. Also, leave the dog field for the dogs and bonfire night. And finally, when are we going to get the Council and Police to do something about speeding drivers through the village!! Thank you.

I would like a more reliable bus service and more things to do in Sadberge.

The price of housing in Sadberge is pricing out younger people, giving them no option but to leave. Even council houses are now too expensive to buy. I would like to buy ours but the Council have moved the goalposts in the last three years, so even though I have a much better job I am back to square one. I have lived with my parents for 35 years in Sadberge and would like to buy our house, but at £92,000 there is no way I could afford to, so it looks like the village will end up losing yet another true villager.

A footpath / cycle path to Middleton St. George would be of great value. The road is dangerous for both groups at the moment. Better cycle and footpath routes to other villages (e.g. Bishopton) could be of use.

Better bus service! We need buses more regularly and running at later times instead of finishing at 4:25 p.m.! Perhaps run into town until about 8 p.m. and a night bus home.

I was not aware of the meeting held on 17th May.

Because I am currently working and using a car I do not use some of the local services frequently ...BUT... I am not planning on moving when I retire and will be a user of local services when I no longer have to travel away to work and cannot have access to a car, so I would be anxious not to lose bus services and activity in Sadberge.

Keep the school and ensure good standard of teachers employed and the village would again boast a valuable asset.

A 20 mph zone would need effective speed control – not police occasionally with a speed camera.

A case should be made to establish a school.

The Parish Council should actively support the playground.

The community of Sadberge has been badly damaged by the loss of the primary school. If new houses are built then any families moving into the village will have to travel out of the village to school.

Currently children are travelling to several different primary schools – more cars on the road, unable to maintain friendships, etc.

I would support ensuring that the village Pre-School is maintained for the children in the village. It may require more support from the community, the Parish Council, etc.

Concerns. Speeding traffic, especially between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. – makes it very dangerous for children walking up for the school bus. We should campaign for speed bumps or similar on all approach roads.

A cycle path from Sadberge to Darlington and Middleton would be great.

Sadberge is one of the rare smaller green villages left within the vicinity of Darlington and it would be detrimental to the landscape and green feel if it were developed.

By looking at the problems that Middleton St. George experience in terms of vandalism, rowdiness and increasing crime since its rapid growth I would strongly deter any proposals on expansion.